DigVentures

Croxdale Medieval Chapel

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

Stuart Noon and Indie Jago

Croxdale Medieval Chapel

Written Scheme of Investigation

Prepared on behalf of:

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Purpose of document

This document has been prepared as Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief for JABA Architect Ltd, the Archaeology Team at Durham County Council Archaeology section (DCCAS) and Historic England (HE). The purpose of this document is to provide an outline of planned works, aims and objectives of the watching brief, and methodology to be employed. The expected impact on an area of the site which forms part of Scheduled Ancient Monument is also discussed.

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Project summary

OASIS ID	digventu1-501614
DV project code and type	CMC21 Watching Scheme of Investigation
National Grid Reference	NZ 2740237914
Designations	Listed Building (Grade I) – Disused chapel: 1120740 Listed Building (Grade II) – Cross shaft base: 1120741 Scheduled Monument: List entry 1019820
County	Durham
Title:	Croxdale Medieval Chapel WSI for an Archaeological Watching Brief
Author(s):	Stuart Noon MCIfA Indie Jago BSc
Origination date:	08/04/21
Circulation:	JABA Architect Ltd Lee McFarlane, Historic England David Mason Durham County Council
Reviewed by:	Manda Forster MCIfA
Approval:	Brendon Wilkins MCIfA

Social Value Act

DigVentures is a social enterprise dedicated to designing and delivering publicly focused archaeology projects. We are constituted as a limited company, with a constitution reflecting the wider social, economic and environmental benefits of the projects we deliver.

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DigVentures is aiming to reduce its per capita carbon emissions.

Acknowledgements

We'd like to begin with a sincere thank you to John Barnes B.A., B.Arch, RIBA, AABC, IHBC of JABA Architect Ltd for commissioning us to undertake this project. In addition, we would like to acknowledge the advice and support of David Mason, Principal Archaeologist and at Durham County Council Archaeology Section and Lee McFarlane, Historic England Inspector.

The project will be managed by DigVentures. Stuart Noon will manage the project with Lisa Westcott Wilkins, Managing Director, acting as Project Executive.

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1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 DigVentures has been appointed by JABA Architect Ltd (hereafter "the Client") to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken at Croxdale medieval chapel (hereafter "the site") on Tuesday 4th of May 2021.

1.1.2 The site is a Scheduled Monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (Historic England List Entry No. 1019820). The medieval chapel is Grade I listed (1120740) and a medieval cross shaft base, situated 8m to the south of the church is Grade II listed (1120741). Both features are situated within the Croxdale Hall, an C18th century walled garden and parkland, and Grade II* listed Registered Park and Garden of Special Historical Interest (1001271). An archaeological watching brief is a requirement of the scheduled monument consent issued by the Secretary of State at Department of Culture Media and Sport (DCMS).

1.1.3 Croxdale Church, centred on NZ 2740237914 (Figure 1), is situated on a plateau at 75m AOD, 50m northeast of Croxdale Hall, which itself is located on the east bank of the River Wear 1-2km east of Sunderland Bridge, County Durham.

1.1.4 The works proposed concern the construction of minor drainage works to the north and south of the chancel of the disused medieval chapel, Croxdale Church. The drainage works have been designed to flow eastward following a gradient away from the building to drain water from lead spouts on each of north and south sides of Chancel. (Figure 2). These works are necessary to mitigate raised ground levels causing water to run back under the flagged floor in Chancel causing extensive algae growth and efflorescence and beneath unventilated timber platforms in Nave causing rot.

1.1.5 This WSI provides a description of the methods to be employed for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during the development works at the site. The work will be undertaken under the guidance of Historic England's (HE) Inspector of Ancient Monuments Lee McFarlane and David Mason of Durham County Council's Archaeology Section (DCCAS), who have advised on the requirement for an archaeological watching brief in accordance with a WSI (SMC ref number S00241011).

1.2 Scope of document

1.2.1 This WSI sets out the strategy and methodology by which the archaeological contractor will implement the archaeological watching brief. In format and content, it conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined the Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015a), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and the North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Petts and Gerrard 2006). Draft Resource Assessments (NERFF 2020), and Standards for Archaeological Work in County Durham and Darlington (DCCAS 2019).

1.2.2 This WSI is to be submitted for approval prior to the commencement of the archaeological programme to Historic England who will monitor that the works in line with the conditions of Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) and DCCAS, who provide archaeological planning advice to the Local Planning Authority.

1.3 Site location and geology

1.3.1 The site lies at grid reference NZ 2740237914 and is situated in the village of Croxdale, in the Civil Parish of Croxdale and Hett, about 4.8km south of Durham City in County Durham on the A167 road formerly part of the Great North Road. The proposed development area is around the north and south of the chancel of the church and an area to the east all within the scheduled monument (Figure 2).

1.3.2 The monument lies within an area of sedimentary bedrock of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation formed between 318 and 309.5 million years ago during the Carboniferous period. The bedrock constituents vary from interbedded grey mudstone, siltstone, pale grey sandstone and commonly coal seams, with a bed of mudstone containing marine fossils at the base, and several such marine fossil-bearing mudstones in the upper half of the unit. The superficial geology comprises of Till, Devensian - Diamicton. Sedimentary superficial deposit formed between 116 and 11.8 thousand years ago during the Quaternary period (BGS, http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk).

1.4 Historic background

1.4.1 The following description is taken from the HE List Entry for the Scheduled Monument: https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1019820

1.4.2 Croxdale Medieval Church is the focus of historic and archaeological interest. It is the site of a medieval chapel and the socket stone of a churchyard cross, situated 50m north east of Croxdale Hall. Croxdale chapel, now known as Old Croxdale chapel, was dedicated to St Bartholomew. It was formerly a dependent chapel of St Oswald's Church, Durham. The earliest fabric of the chapel has been dated to the late 11th century or early 12th century. The church was sold to the Salvin family in 1845-6 in exchange for land to build a new church at Sunderland Bridge. Since this time the churchyard has been used as a family burial ground. The medieval chapel, which is Listed Grade I, comprises a nave and chancel. The nave measures 11.6m long by 7m wide externally. The walls are constructed of roughly coursed rubble sandstone blocks and are 4m high. The south wall has a 19th century window with a four-centred arch, a blocked window and a 12th century doorway with semi-circular tympanum above. The door is original and has two iron `C'-shaped hinges and a central iron cross. The tympanum, which bears a carving of the Tree of Life, rest on two 0.8m long stones (known as imposts) in the walls either side of the doorway. The west wall has a single light lancet window with a cusped head, two blocked lancet windows and a bellcote above the roof apex which has two pointed openings; one still retains a bell. The north front has a blocked doorway. The roof of the nave is pitched and is pantiled with a verge of stone slabs. The gables of the roof are stone coped. The chancel, which measures 7.7m long by 5m wide, has a 19th century four-centred arch window on the south side, a 14th century Decorated Style three light window in the east wall and a brick stack abutting the north side. The chancel is butt jointed to the nave, indicating it was built later than the nave. A low parapet with chamfered coping has added 0.5m to the height of the chancel walls and hides a low pitched roof which drains via four drainage spouts, two in the north and two in the south chancel wall. The interior of the nave walls are plastered and limewashed, with a wooden dado. The floor is of limestone slabs which to the west of the south door extend the full width of the nave and to the east of the doorway form a central aisle with the remainder boarded. In the south wall the window bay of a blocked window is visible. The east wall has a string course at 1.45m high, with a lower chamfer and there is a late 12th century chancel arch supported on keeled responds with moulded bases and capitals. The walls of the chancel are also plastered and limewashed and the floor is also of limestone slabs. Three plaques (two from the 19th century and one from the 20th century) are attached to the north wall. The east wall has a stone altar supported on columns of Frosterley marble and to the north a stone ledge built into the wall with chamfered lower edges. The south wall has an aumbry, a cupboard recessed into the wall for the storage of the altar plate and other sacred items. The churchyard cross is situated 5m to the south of the chancel of the medieval chapel. It includes a sandstone socket stone, which is Listed Grade II, and measures 0.7m square and 0.36m high. The top edge is chamfered. A modern shaft and cross, dating from 1978, has been inserted into the socket and obscures the socket's dimensions. The 20th century cross and shaft are excluded from the scheduling, although the socket stone and the ground beneath are included (Historic England, List Entry 1019820).

1.5 North-East Regional Research Framework

1.5.1 The watching brief at Croxdale Medieval Church holds some potential to address several research themes and questions posed in the North-East Regional Research Framework (NERRF, Petts and Gerrard 2006), as well as investigate questions raised in recent developer-led archaeological fieldwork.

1.5.2 The investigation may address the following NERRF themes;

- Chronology-establishing chronologies for human activity in the past remains one of the most critical aspects of archaeological research. This is highlighted in each of the cultural periods defined in the NERRF (Petts and Gerrard 2006).
- Early religion ecclesiastical structures – Christianity is a major research topic in the study of the early medieval North-East. Religious belief and ritual activity permeated all aspects of life in the historic North-East, that continues to resonate strongly. There is a huge potential for the future study of the early medieval period in the region and in particular further research is needed into the layout of ecclesiastical sites, and their impact in the wider landscape (Petts and Gerrard 2006, 155, 161, 227-228).
- The church and religious belief - the Saxo-Norman transition was an important period for church architecture and the precise chronology of the Saxo-Norman overlap remains uncertain. Excavation on church sites is limited by the fact that many are still in use as places of worship although some work has been undertaken. Some archaeological work has also taken place on churches which have fallen into disuse. Wider patterns of ecclesiastical organisation are not well understood. The development of parochial structures and the role of more minor chapels-of-ease requires further clarification (ibid, 80, 82,165-166).

1.5.3 Whilst the watching brief at Croxdale medieval church is limited in its scope, there is still potential that observations made, and archaeology recorded can contribute some information to our understanding of the early ecclesiastical structure and its layout.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Watching Brief

2.1.1 The principal aim of the watching brief is to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains and to investigate and record these within the area of the groundworks. This will include:

- Verification of the archaeological potential of the site.
- Identification of the potential for remains not anticipated by previous research or record.

2.1.2 The site is located within the scheduled area at the north and south of the church chancel and an area running eastwards and comprises of minor works in the form of the imposition of new drainage at a length of 30m, width of 300mm and a depth of 600mm. The principle archaeological question during works at the site will be to establish to what extent do the works impinge on the scheduled monument and if any Early Medieval or later remains can be identified and recorded.

2.1.3 Although the size of the development is very limited, should any Early Medieval or Later Medieval remains be identified there may be potential to address some of the research aims of the NERRF (Petts and Gerrard 2006).

3 MONITORING OF DEVELOPMENT

3.1.1 A programme for the archaeological watching brief will be carried out, subject to four weeks notification given by the Client to Historic England, on the commencement of any groundwork that may have an impact on archaeological features and deposits. The works will involve the imposition of new drainage necessary to mitigate raised ground levels causing water to run back under the flagged floor in Chancel causing extensive algae growth and efflorescence and beneath unventilated timber platforms in Nave causing rot (Figure 2).

3.1.2 The work is currently programmed for the 4th of May 2021. An archaeological presence will be maintained during the works with monitoring by HE/DCCAS as required. Liaison will be undertaken with the HE inspector Lee McFarlane if the watching brief records any features of interest who will also be invited to visit the site.

3.1.3 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the standards set out within the WSI provided by DigVentures and the requirements of the Historic England and DCAAS.

3.1.4 All work will be undertaken to ClfA *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (2014). The Client will afford reasonable access in order that all archaeological features and deposits revealed during groundwork can be investigated and recorded appropriately.

3.1.5 All recording will be undertaken using DigVentures pro forma recording system, supported by a digital photographic record that confirms with Historic England standards (Historic England 2015b). A sufficient sample of each feature type/deposit will be examined in order to establish the date, nature, extent and condition of the archaeological remains, encompassing the following percentage interventions:

- 50% of each intrusive feature (pits, postholes)
- 15% of each linear feature's exposed area + all terminals & intersections
- 50% structural features (beamslots, ring ditches) - actual surviving structural elements (walls, collapse/debris fields) just require exposure, cleaning and preservation for excavation in more appropriate circumstances
- 50-100% domestic/industrial working features (hearths, ovens)
- Investigation slots through all linear features will be no less than 1m in width

3.1.6 Areas under archaeological observation will be surveyed using a Total Station or dGPS and tied in with the Ordnance Survey. Variations to the WSI and Method Statement will be agreed in advance with the Client, DCCAS and Historic England.

3.1.7 In the event that unexpectedly complex and widespread archaeological remains are revealed, the Client, Historic England and DCCAS and will be informed in order that the provisions of this WSI may be reviewed.

3.2 Finds and environmental samples

3.2.1 Finds will be treated in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (2014), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.

3.2.2 All artefacts will be retained from excavated contexts, except features or deposits undoubtedly of modern date. In these circumstances, sufficient artefacts will only be retained to elucidate the date and function of the feature or deposit.

3.2.3 All artefacts from the watching brief will, as a minimum, be washed, marked, counted, weighed and identified. Any stratified ironwork will be X-rayed and stored in a stable condition along with other fragile and delicate material. Suitable material, primarily the pottery and non-ferrous metalwork, will be scanned to assess the date range of the assemblage. The results of this scan will be appended to the watching brief report.

3.2.4 Bulk environmental soil samples for plant macrofossils, small animal bones and other small artefacts will be taken from appropriate sealed and dateable archaeological contexts (each sealed context will normally be sampled). Samples of between 40-60 litres will be taken or 100 % of smaller contexts. Samples will not be taken from the intersection of features. Bulk environmental soil samples will be processed by flotation and scanned to assess the environmental potential of deposits but will not be fully analysed. The residues and sieved fractions will be recorded and retained with the project archive. A statement on the environmental potential of excavated deposits will be appended to the watching brief report.

3.3 Human remains

3.3.1 In the event of discovery of any human remains, it is proposed that they will be left in situ, covered and protected, until the Client, Coroner, Historic England and Local Planning Authority Advisor have been informed. Where development will unavoidably disturb them, they will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from the site subject to compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, which will be obtained by DigVentures.

3.3.2 Should human remains be excavated during the watching brief, all excavation and post-excavation will be in accordance with the standards set out in CIfA Technical Paper 13 Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains (McKinley and Roberts 1993), as well as those provided by Historic England and Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE) (Historic England 2018; APABE and Historic England 2017; APABE 2015; 2013). Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken by specialist staff at DigVentures. The final placing of human remains following analysis will be subject to the requirements of the Ministry of Justice Licence.

3.4 Treasure

3.4.1 In the event of discovery of artefacts covered or potentially covered by The Treasure Act and Treasure Designation Order (1996; 2002), their excavation and removal will be undertaken following notification of the Client, DCCAS, and Historic England. Advice on reporting and management of any Treasure finds will be sought from the Finds Liaison Officer for Durham, Darlington and Teesside.

4 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORTING

4.1 Watching brief report

4.1.1 Within four weeks of completion of the fieldwork, a report setting out the results will be produced and forwarded to the Historic England for approval. The watching brief report will be prepared in accordance with the guidance given in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and will comply with the requirements of Historic England and DCCAS.

4.1.2 Emphasis within this report will be given to placing the results into the context of the archaeology of the region, and their significance in the context of the priorities outlined in the North East Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (NERRF) (Petts and Gerrard 2006). A report will be produced even if the watching brief is negative. The report will include:

- an executive and results summary
- introduction, scope, background, and framework,
- aims, objectives, methodology and finds
- discussion, conclusion, recommendations and archive
- site and works location figures
- photos of representative sections and context descriptions

4.1.3 If the report is positive it may include:

- plans and sections at an appropriate scale locating the site, the, known and projected archaeological deposits and the extent and nature of colluvial and/or alluvial deposits, including OD heights
- tabulation of finds data by context and by material type
- a summary by category of the material types recovered during the watching brief
- a summary of the palaeo-environmental evidence
- a consideration of the archaeological evidence from within the Site set in its broader landscape and historic setting
- SMC reference number

4.1.4 The preparation of the report may involve the following elements:

- the conservation of appropriate material, including the x-raying of ironwork
- the spot dating of all pottery from excavated contexts. Spot dating will be corroborated by scanning of other categories of material
- the preparation of a preliminary phased site matrix with supporting lists of contexts by type (ditch fill, pit fill etc.), by spot-dated phase (early bronze age, middle iron age, roman etc.), by structural grouping (e.g. contexts by pit, by building etc.), supported by preliminary phase plans

- a statement on each category of material, including reference to quantity, provenance, range and variety, condition and existence of other primary sources
- the selection and prioritisation of bulk soil samples taken for environmental and artefactual data in the light of preliminary phasing. sieving, processing and scanning of selected soil samples will be undertaken and an assessment statement on charred food and plant remains, including references as for the categories of material
- a statement of potential for each material category and for the data collection as a whole will be prepared, including specific questions that can be answered and the potential value of the data to local, regional and national investigation priorities

4.1.5 Where appropriate and subject to further agreement, further analysis may be undertaken, and the results published in a journal appropriate to the significance of finds.

4.1.6 Where appropriate and subject to further agreement, further analysis may be undertaken, and the results published in a journal appropriate to the significance of finds. An OASIS online record has been initiated before the start of work, and a copy of the OASIS form included with the final report within three months of leaving site. Where positive results are drawn for a project, a summary report will also be submitted to Historic England and DCCAS. On approval, the report will be submitted in hard copy and in digital copy to the DCC HER, with a copyright licence granted to Durham County Council to use the report for the purposes of the HER. A final copy of the report will be uploaded to OASIS within three months of approval by Historic England.

5 ARCHIVE

5.1 Preparation and deposition

5.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with DigVentures' Guidelines for Archive Preparation and DCCAS's Standards (DCCAS 2019), and in accordance with best practice guidance (English Heritage 1991; Historic England 2015a; 2015b; Walker 1990; Watkinson and Neal 2001). The material archive from the project, including the finds and subject to the wishes of the landowner will be deposited in the Sevenhills Repository at Spennymoor.

5.1.2 Guidelines for preparation and deposition have been fully reviewed to ensure that the curator's requirements can be fully met. Deposition of the Digital Archive will follow guidelines outlined by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

6 PROJECT STAFFING

6.1 Staffing

6.1.1 The fieldwork will be directed and supervised by an experienced archaeologist from DigVentures core staff who will be on site, having been given prior notification by the Client as soon as groundworks are being undertaken that could have an impact on potential archaeological features. No groundworks which could have an impact on extant archaeology should be undertaken prior to the archaeological evaluation if it has been determined that mitigation is required. The overall responsibility for the conduct and management of the project will be held by Stuart Noon MCIfA DigVentures' Project Manager, who will visit the fieldwork as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the scope of works is adhered to. The Project Manager and an experienced archaeologist will be involved in all phases of the evaluation through to its completion.

6.1.2 The analysis of the finds and environmental data will be undertaken by DigVentures' core staff or external specialists, using DigVentures' standard pro forma recording system. The work will be carried out under the supervision of the departmental managers under the overall direction of the Projects Director. The finds and environmental specialists are detailed below: -

Table 1 Specialists Table

Name / Organisation	Project role / area of responsibility
Dr David Griffiths	Roman pottery specialist
Dr Hannah Russ	Animal bone and shell specialist
Dr Phil Mills	Ceramic building materials specialist
Dr Ellen Simmons	Archaeobotanist
Dr Joshua Hogue Digventures	Lithics specialist
Stuart Noon Digventures	Special finds
Karen Barker	Conservator and x-ray photographer
York Archaeological Trust	Conservators (waterlogged materials)
Andrew Sage	Medieval and Post-medieval pottery specialist
David Griffiths	Prehistoric pottery specialist
SUERC	Radiocarbon dating
Dr Anwen Caffell	Human remains specialist
Dr Gerry MacDonnell	Metal working specialist
DARC	Treasure and scientific analyses

6.2 Quality and professional standards

6.2.1 DigVentures is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. All senior managers are MCIfA registered. The company endorses the *Code of conduct* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and complies with the Institutes' *Standards and guidance* documents.

6.2.2 All core staff employed by DigVentures are appropriately qualified and employed in line with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Code of conduct*. DigVentures operates a Project Management System based on MoRPHE. All projects are undertaken under the direction of the Project Manager who is responsible to the Projects Director, who ensures the maintenance of quality standards within the organisation. The Managing Director has ultimate responsibility for all of the company's work.

7 INSURANCE, HEALTH AND SAFETY

7.1 Policy and Risk Assessment

7.1.1 Health and safety considerations will be of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices will always override archaeological considerations. DigVentures will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with its company Health and Safety Policy, to standards defined in The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974, and The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and in accordance with the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers) health and safety manual Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (1996). Trench excavation and design shall conform to Health and Safety legislation, incorporating current best engineering practice where possible. A Risk Assessment will be undertaken in advance of fieldwork, in liaison with the Client and CHET, and a copy given to CHET prior to the commencement of works. DigVentures holds public liability insurance (£5,000,000), employers liability insurance (£10,000,000) and professional indemnity insurance (£1,000,000).

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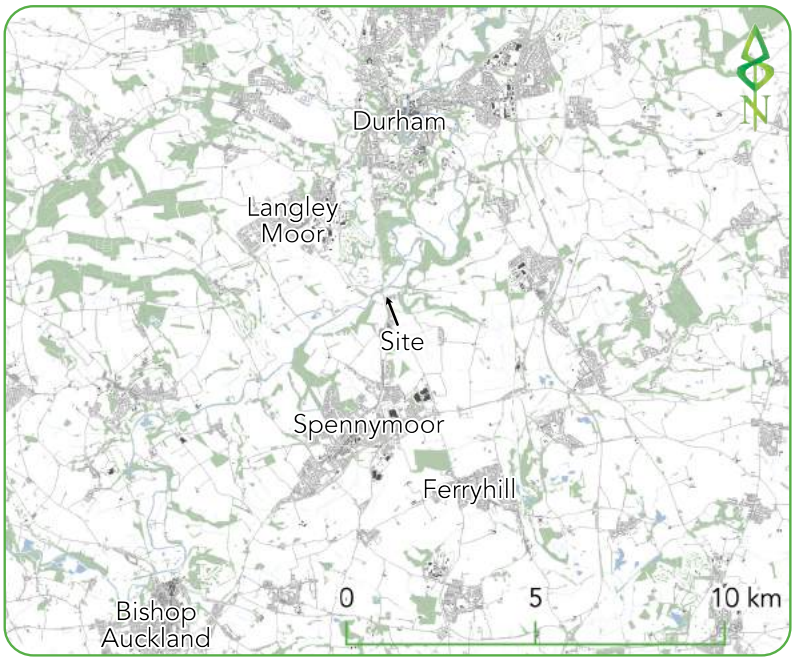

Figure 1: Site location

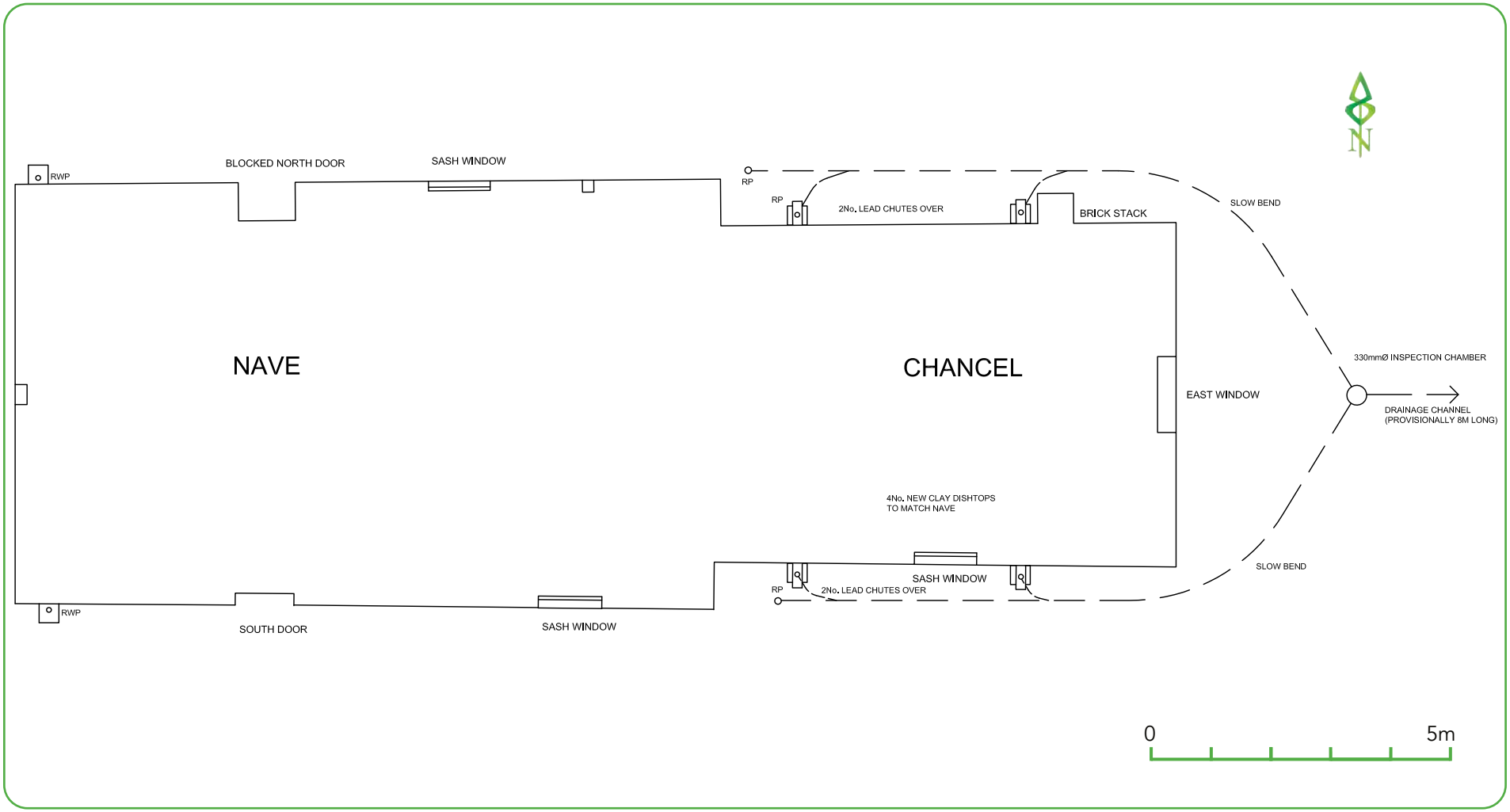

Figure 2: Proposed drainage works